



SUMMER NEWS LETTER ☆ AUGUST, 1949

A Report From The President

Conservation and protection of Nature on an international scale got a thorough workout at Lake Success, New York, during the last two weeks of August and the first week of September. Your president was on hand for about ten days of the doings, finding the sessions interesting, often stimulating, now and then dull.

For the record, there were two simultaneous meetings. One was the United Nations Conference on the Conservation and Utilization of Resources, happily abbreviated to read UNSCCUR. This was called by the United Nations on instructions from its Economic and Social Council. The other session was the International Technical Conference on the Protection of Nature, which defied abbreviation and was generally referred to as the Nature Protection Conference. This was called jointly by UNESCO and the International Union for the Protection of Nature.

For both of these affairs papers were submitted in advance and made available to participants for reading, so that the sessions were devoted to discussion stimulated by these papers. This resulted in the opening up of a variety of subjects for the exchange of views from various parts of the world, so we used earphones extensively as the amazingly adept translators rendered the speakers' words into whichever tongue the listener preferred.

To attempt to report all the subjects discussed would be impossible. One of these days the proceedings of both meetings will be available for such hardy souls as can wade through them. In fact, it

seems to me that an attempt to evaluate the meetings, which were something new in conservation, is more to the point.

The UNSCCUR seemed to concern itself more largely with the utilization of resources than it did with their conservation. Forty-four countries were represented, and there were technicians and experts of all sorts. There was some slight leaven of conservation viewpoint. However, due to some ruling on high, no resolutions were adopted and no recommendations made for future action by the represented nations, individually or collectively. Mrs. Gifford Pinchot livened things up at one stage of the game by pointing to this policy as making the conference worthless. It seemed to us that she was a bit severe, as much as some conclusions would have been helpful. Much, I feel, will eventually come out of this meeting, if only because it was a start in the right direction, and also because it brought together individuals and made them personally acquainted. Too, much information was exchanged in corridors of the polygot Lake Success buildings and in the delegates' lounge and dining room.

The Nature Protection Conference, on the other hand, did arrive at conclusions, devoting its final plenary session to adoption of resolutions for specific programs to be carried out by UNESCO or the International Union. Throughout, this conference was more spirited in its sessions, perhaps because those in attendance were more closely knit in their interests. Area protection for esthetic and scientific purposes, and species preservation, were matters of primary concern, and it was interesting, for example, to discover that Nature-minded people in France, the Bel-

gian Congo, South Africa and elsewhere were as alarmed by the indiscriminate use of high-powered insecticides and other chemicals as we are.

With this conference, too, there was a great deal to be derived from personal association. It was stimulating and vastly informing to sit in a group discussion with Dahlbeck of Sweden, Heim of the Netherlands, Bernard of Switzerland, Monod of France, Beltrand of Mexico, Darling of England, Troughton of Australia, Von Grann of South Africa, and others, and learn of their problems and how they are trying to meet them at home. International thinking about conservation and protection of Nature (which is the European term for conservation) is vitally important. This conference sowed a seed that will truly germinate.

— R.W.W.

Annual Meeting Scheduled For New York December 27 - 30

MAKE RESERVATIONS NOW —
FOR ROOMS

The Hotel New Yorker will serve as convention headquarters for the A.N.S.S. as well as the other science education groups. Your reservations for rooms should be sent to Miss Sylvia T. Peltonen, Manager, Housing Bureau, 500 Park Avenue, New York City 22. Indicate your first and second choice of hotels. Confirmations will be sent from the hotel within two weeks.

AMERICAN NATURE STUDY SOCIETY NEWS LETTER

Affiliated with The National Association of Biology Teachers

Affiliated with The National Science Teachers Association

Affiliated with The American Association for the Advancement of Science

Office of the Secy.-Treas., Richard L. Weaver, Chapel Hill, N. C., Box 1078 Editor of the News Letter, Dwight E. Sollberger, State Teachers College, Indiana, Pa.
Publication Dates: Winter, February; Spring, May; Summer, August; Fall, October

Nominations For Officers Due Now

The members are privileged to nominate candidate, for the general election in December prior to the annual meeting. Each candidate who receives five nominations is placed on the ballot. The deadline for nominations is November 1. Send your nominations to the Secretary, Richard L. Weaver, P. O. Box 1078, Chapel Hill, N. C.

The following officers will be elected this year:

President — for one year

Vice-President — for one year

Board of Directors — five members for two years

Those who will continue in office another year are:

Board of Directors (1949-1950)

Allan D. Cruickshank

Eva Gordon

Raymond Gregg

Charles Mohr

Edwin Way Teale

A.A.A.S. Representative (1949-1950)

E. L. Palmer

Secretary-Treasurer (1949-1950)

Richard L. Weaver

Register With The American Association For The Advancement Of Science (AAAS)

The A.N.S.S. has always met with the A.A.A.S. and plans to continue to do so. We have never had a convention reservation fee but have encouraged members to register with A.A.A.S. They have been able in years past to pay the costs of projection equipment for our meetings and other affiliated groups. They are no longer able to do so but will share these costs with us on a pro-rata basis which will be determined by how many of our members are members of A.A.A.S. and how many of the people who attend our meetings have registered with A.A.A.S. The registration fee for members of A.A.A.S. is \$2.00 and for non-members, \$3.00.

We urge you to register with A.A.A.S. as this will help reduce our convention expense and keep us from having to charge a separate fee. You can register in advance and receive the catalogue of the combined meetings and your admission card early in December, by sending your check to Dr. Raymond Taylor, A.A.A.S., 1515 Massachusetts Avenue N.W., Washington, D. C.

Notice To New Members

All new members who apply prior to October 1 are considered members for the current year as membership runs from January 1 to December 31. The subscriptions to the magazines are post-dated to January of the current year and you receive all the back issues.

Those who apply after October 1 are considered members for the next year and the magazine subscriptions are entered for January of the new year. The NEWS LETTER is sent immediately to all members. Membership dues notices are sent out each year in December and the dues are payable in advance.

Pacific Branch Organized

Under the active leadership of Dr. Ruth E. Hopson the plans for a Pacific Branch of the A.N.S.S. were realized on June 15 at a meeting held in Vancouver, B. C. in conjunction with the meetings of the Western Division of the A.A.A.S.

The following officers were elected: President, Dr. Leo Hadsall, Fresno, California; Vice-President, Dr. Elmo Stevenson, Ashland, Oregon; Secretary-Treasurer, Dr. Kenneth Gordon, Corvallis, Oregon, National Representative and Oregon State Chairman, Dr. Ruth E. Hopson, Eugene, Oregon; Washington Chairman, Margaret McKenny, Olympia, Washington.

Over 25 people attended the meeting. There are now over 100 members of A.N.S.S. in the three Pacific states. Members who attended the Vancouver organizational meeting were: Virginia Gordon, Anna Pechanec, Catherine Dunlop, Kenneth Gordon, Alvia Wetherell, Florence Snedaker, Charles W. Quaintance, Margaret McKenny, Gunnar Fagerlund, Jane Dirks-Edmunds, Leo Hadsall, George C. Ruhle, Helen Kirkpatrick, Anton Postl, Theed Pearse, Elmo Stevenson, Wm. R. Scott, and Ruth Hopson.

Increase In Canadian Nature Subscriptions

Due to an increase in the cost of subscriptions to CANADIAN NATURE a revision in the dues was authorized at the meeting of the Board of Directors December 27, 1948.

The present membership dues of \$1.50 will be retained for all those who wish to have a subscription to the CORNELL RURAL SCHOOL LEAFLET. The dues will be \$2.00 for those desiring subscriptions

to CANADIAN NATURE and \$2.50 for subscriptions to both magazines.

Membership and
CORNELL RURAL SCHOOL LEAFLET \$1.50
or CANADIAN NATURE 2.00
or Both Magazines 2.50

New York Meeting

Our past President, Edwin Way Teale, has arranged a program this year which should make every member want to be in New York for the Annual Meeting December 27 - 29.

As one would expect a photographer-writer to do, Ed has set up a panel of experts on nature writing and another one on nature photography. Some have appeared on our programs in other years and several you will meet for the first time, but all are outstanding authorities and speakers you will want to hear.

Our Tuesday afternoon, December 22, session will be devoted to nature writing and nature books with Ed Teale presiding and the following speakers participating in the discussions: Ellsworth Jaeger of the Buffalo Museum of Natural History, lecturer-writer, nature writing; Roger Tory Peterson, artist, lecturer-writer, illustrating nature books; Raymond T. Bond of the Dodd, Mead Publishing Company on publishing and promoting nature books; and Howard Zahnizer of the Wilderness Society and the staff of Nature Magazine on the reviewing of nature books.

On Wednesday afternoon, December 28, President Richard W. Westwood will serve as chairman of the session on nature photography with the following speakers: Allan D. Cruickshank of the National Audubon Society on bird photography; Edwin Way Teale, writer, photographer and lecturer, on insect photography; Rutherford Platt, photographer, naturalist, on plant photography; and S. Glidden Baldwin, doctor, photographer, writer, on photographing trees.

On Friday, December 29, you will want to join the rugged outdoorsmen on a field trip to the coast, probably in the Jones Beach area, to study ecology and to see any wintering birds available. Ed Teale, Roger Peterson, and Richard Pough will be on hand to guide the group over this interesting region.

The local nature clubs in the New York area will exhibit some of their nature projects in the meeting rooms at the Society headquarters in Hotel New Yorker.

ANNUAL MEETING - DECEMBER 27-29

American Nature Study Society

TENTATIVE PROGRAM

Tuesday Morning, December 27

- 7:30 A.M. — Parlor B, Hotel New Yorker — Richard W. Westwood, Presiding
Meeting of the Board of Directors and Officers, and
Delegates of Affiliated Groups
- 10:00 A.M. — Grand Ballroom, Hotel New Yorker
Joint meeting with Science Education Groups

Tuesday Afternoon, December 27

- 2:00 P.M. — Panel Room, Hotel New Yorker — Edwin Way Teale, Presiding
- NATURE WRITING AND NATURE BOOKS**
- JAEGER, ELLSWORTH — *Writing Nature Books*
PETERSON, ROGER TORY — *Illustrating Nature Books*
BOND, RAYMOND T. — *Publishing and Promoting Nature Books*
ZAHNIZER, HOWARD — *Reviewing Nature Books*

Tuesday Evening, December 27

- 8:00 P.M. — Panel Room, Hotel New Yorker — Richard W. Westwood, Presiding
- Annual Business Meeting of the AMERICAN NATURE STUDY SOCIETY
Reports of Affiliated Groups
Informal Showing of Kodachromes by members

Wednesday Morning, December 28

- 10:00 A.M. — Grand Ballroom, Hotel New Yorker
Joint meeting with Science Education Groups

Wednesday Afternoon, December 28

- 2:30 P.M. — Panel Room, Hotel New Yorker — Richard W. Westwood, Presiding
- NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY**
- CRUICKSHANK, ALLAN D. — *Bird Photography*
TEALE, EDWIN WAY — *Insect Photography*
PLATT, RUTHERFORD — *Wildflower Photography*
BALDWIN, S. GLIDDEN — *Photographing Outstanding Trees*

Thursday Morning, December 29

- 11:00 A.M. — Grand Ballroom
Joint Session with Science Education Groups

Thursday Evening, December 29

- 7:00 P.M. — (?) — North Ballroom
Joint Banquet with Science Education Groups

Friday Morning and Afternoon, December 30

- 8:30 A.M. — FIELD TRIP — Meet at Parlor B for directions
Leaders, Edwin Way Teale, Roger Tory Peterson, Richard H. Pough,
E. L. Palmer and Richard L. Weaver

Report Of Club Activities

The morning sessions on December 27, 28 and 29 will be cooperatively sponsored and attended by all of the science education groups, with the National Association of Biology Teachers and the American Nature Study Society being responsible for the session on Wednesday, December 28 which will be a discussion of the recent developments in biology.

If you plan to attend the meetings and need a place to stay you had better send in your hotel reservation promptly to Miss Sylvia T. Peltonen, manager of the Housing Bureau, 500 Park Avenue, New York City 22. Indicate which hotel you would like to stay in and what space you will need.

Additional information about the program and the advantages of membership of the American Nature Study Society can be obtained from the Secretary-Treasurer, Richard L. Weaver, P. O. Box 1078, Chapel Hill, N. C.

All who plan to attend will want to register with the American Association for the Advancement of Science in order to be eligible to attend all the meetings being held in New York at that time. The combined registration fee for all meetings is \$3.00 and advance registration can be made to Dr. Raymond Taylor, 1515 Massachusetts Ave., N.W., Washington 5, D. C.

Reports of the various club activities will be a part of the Annual Meeting Tuesday evening with delegates reporting from the New York Chapter, Bangor (Me.) Bird Conservation Club, Watchung (N. J.) Nature Club, Eastern Nazarene College Club (Mass.), Natural History Society of Eugene (Ore.), Nature Society of the Klamath Region (Ore.) and the new Western or Pacific Branch of the American Nature Study Society.

The outstanding news of the year comes from the west coast where over one hundred new members have been enrolled by Dr. Ruth Hopson and an active committee. The Pacific Branch was organized at a special meeting last spring in Vancouver, British Columbia when the Pacific Division of the A.A.A.S. met. This was the first time a group sponsored by the American Nature Study Society has met outside the United States. Dr. Leo Hadsall of Fresno, California was elected president, Dr. Elmo Stevenson of Ashland, Oregon, vice-president, Dr. Kenneth Gordon of Corvallis, Oregon, secretary-treasurer, and Dr. Ruth Hopson of Eugene, Oregon, representative on the Board of the Society. Dr. Hadsall and Dr. Hopson plan to attend the New York meetings.

Pennsylvania's New Course Of Study

Pennsylvania's new course of study for the Elementary Schools, published as Bulletin 233B, contains a planned program of Elementary Science. Due to the difficulty of introducing a new subject into an already crowded day, the Elementary Science is to be integrated with History and Geography. However, consideration is given to the viewpoint that Science may also be taught as a separate subject. It is too early to learn how the science program is being received by the classroom teacher, but it is hoped that there will be an increased offering of Science in Pennsylvania's schools at the elementary level.

— D.E.S.

Solving Some Problems Of Background In Natural History Photography

By T. LYLE KEITH

The following discussion is written to aid the beginning naturalist photographer and concerns only one important factor—in producing good natural history photographs of the many small objects that are so often encountered. The discussion is entirely centered around color photography, but the principles involved may well be applied to black and white. We are not going to be concerned here with photographs of mountain ranges, general habitat shots, or with subjects so small that photographs of them must be made through a microscope, but rather with photographs of such subjects as our smaller mammals, wild flowers, fungi, insects, and other subjects of similar proportions.

It must also be understood that we are not considering the production of pictorial results alone, but pictures which will show a subject clearly and correctly first and foremost. If this can be accomplished and at the same time embody those requirements which will result in salon quality photographs—fine!

To produce, then, the type of photograph we want, we must have a subject, and a background of some kind. The subject pretty well controls itself—all the photographer must do after having selected a subject is to arrange it, his camera, and lighting, to reproduce its distinguishing features faithfully. This is all

fairly simple, since many subjects can be arranged as necessary, others may be enticed into a desired location and position, the camera can be placed in any desired location, and even outdoor lighting can be controlled by shading and the use of reflectors.

But then comes the background, and, within reason, we may say that here the photographer has complete control and responsibility. The background he arranges or selects and the way he treats that background may easily affect his final result to the extent of certain success or equally certain failure. Possibilities are limited only by the photographer's imagination, ingenuity, and his clear understanding of the capabilities and limitations of the equipment at his disposal.

Let us discuss a few of these many possibilities. First, there is the artificial background of which colored cardboard—which may be secured in practically any shade and grade of brightness desired—is the most popular. Properly used, this kind of background may be considered acceptable, but its pitfalls are many. I have in mind three natural history photographer friends, and briefly review how each would probably treat a background utilizing the same light-colored, pebble-surfaced card behind the same subject.

Mr. A would be delighted with the brilliance and surface of his background material. He would place it close to the subject with full illumination so directed as to emphasize the surface texture. After focusing sharply on the subject, he would "stop down" to bring the background also into sharp focus. His result would be a beautifully sharp picture, confusing to view, first of all because the observer's attention would be torn between the well-portrayed subject and the strikingly contrasting and prominent background. And whether sensed or not, some of the observer's attention is bound to be claimed by the detail of the card's surface. You will agree, I am sure, that this is not an ideal condition.

Mr. B would proceed in a similar manner but would place his background at a greater distance from the subject. This simple change alone would improve his results considerably. After focusing on the subject, he would set his "stop" to obtain only the depth necessary to assure sharpness of the subject. The background, being now some distance away, would not come into sharp focus. Mr. B's resulting background, therefore, would be bright, as in the photograph made by Mr. A, but it would contain no distracting detail. The subject, then, not having to compete with background detail, would stand out more clearly. Its detail could, there-

fore, be more easily observed, and, except for the somewhat garish color contrasts, the purpose for which the photograph was made would more nearly be accomplished.

Mr. C would proceed as did Mr. B. He would, however, arrange in some way to reduce the general intensity of light falling on the background and to cause different intensities of light to fall upon different sections of the background. This he could accomplish by tilting the card, by gently bending it into a slightly concave or convex shape, by placing it so a shadow would fall on part of it, etc. Possibilities are numerous. He would then proceed to arrange his camera so that the lighter parts of the subject would be contrasted against the darker parts of the background and vice versa. He would assure himself that background details—texture and shadow areas—would, in the final result, be sufficiently diffused so as not to vie with the subject. In other words, Mr. C's efforts would result in a photograph showing the subject clearly and accurately against a background subdued in its intensity and containing sufficient variation to be interesting. The subject would no longer have to compete for the observer's attention either in brilliance or in detail. In other words, Mr. C would produce a background which would go practically unnoticed by the observer of his final result, and in so doing would have used the background to add emphasis to the subject.

It has been the writer's general practice to follow a procedure similar to that followed by Mr. C. But instead of using the cardboard or other "prop" as a background, a natural setting such as rocks, water, old roadways, just plain shadowed areas, green meadows, even a leaf, patches of sand, blue or gray sky, etc. have been utilized. This procedure requires equally careful planning and treatment, and in many cases considerably more work, but the returns in pleasing and satisfying results have been more than gratifying.

There can be little question concerning the appropriateness of a background that Nature has planned. Select carefully and treat your selection so as to achieve the result you desire. A little effort on your part will enable you to select and utilize these natural backgrounds to good advantage. Work for natural backgrounds that look as though they belonged there, backgrounds that are appropriate and do not compete with the subject in brightness, color contrast, or detail. In short, strive to make your backgrounds so fine that they will support and enhance the subject. Do this, and the subject you choose to portray will stand out with added life and brilliance.

